

## **LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI ANNOUNCES NEW PROPOSAL IN WAKE OF VIRGINIA TECH MASSACRE - HIGH TECH MEASURES WOULD INSTANTLY WARN CAMPUS STUDENTS OF DANGER**

Lt. Governor's plan would use cellular towers to broadcast warnings to cell phones in a certain area, similar to radio and television's Emergency Broadcast System warnings.

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, in the wake of the recent Virginia Tech shooting massacre, announced his plans Thursday for the creation of a system to broadcast messages to all cellular phones in a campus area, and support the use of other high-tech notification systems.

"The technology is available to offer the highest level of protection for our students," said Garamendi during a news conference at the State Capitol. "This system would save lives should a Virginia Tech situation occur at one of our California campuses."

Garamendi has spoken with executives in the cellular industry about the system and received assurances that they would help investigate and develop the warning program. Legislators and the Office of Emergency Services have also been contacted to begin developing the protocol and scope of the program.

On Monday, a student at the campus of Virginia Tech killed 32 people and then himself over a period of about two hours. Systems such as the one Garamendi is proposing would allow cellular companies with towers serving campus areas to broadcast warning messages to every phone in the area, along with instructions on how to respond to the crisis.

Lt. Governor Garamendi will also coordinate his proposal with ongoing efforts in the Legislature. The State Senate Committee on Education has announced that it will hold a hearing in the next few weeks to discuss campus safety issues.

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Contact: Norman D. Williams

916-445-8994